

LITANY OF BLESSING AND RELEASE
Interim Pastor Dorothy Nickel Friesen
Bethel College Mennonite Church – May 29, 2016

Congregational chair: Today we give thanks for the interim pastoral ministry of Dorothy Nickel Friesen. We mark this day as the ending of this temporary role with Bethel College Mennonite Church.

Congregation: Praise be to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. There is one body, one Spirit, and one hope in God's call to us.

Congregational chair: This is a time of many feelings: sadness, joy, anticipation, loss, satisfaction. Farewells are difficult, but we have journeyed together and we give God thanks for you and your ministry.

Pastor: It has been a great privilege to serve Bethel College Mennonite Church—even for a short time. I pray that you will continue to grow in love for each other and in following Jesus Christ.

Congregation: We will love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength. We will love our neighbors as ourselves. We will bear with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Western District Conference representative: God has provided for you through Dorothy's ministry. As this interim pastoral relationship concludes, do you as Bethel College Mennonite Church release Dorothy from her pastoral responsibilities and relationships?

Congregation: With God's help, we do. We give thanks for faithful and fruitful ministry.

Western District Conference representative: Dorothy, do you release the congregation from turning to you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

Pastor: With God's help, I do. When I return to the BCMC pews, I will be your sister in Christ, not your pastor. I know that the next Interim Lead Pastor will continue the equipping ministry so that the body of Christ may be built up until you attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Congregational chair: We bless you, Dorothy, and pray that God will give you fruitful ministry as you retire—again—from public ministry.

Congregation: Now may the God of peace make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Scriptures used with adaptation: I Corinthians 3:11; Deuteronomy 6: 5; Leviticus 19:18; Ephesians 4:2-3, 12-13; Hebrews 13:20-21